

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

"I made it as a Nazi. That's my biggest thrill in life," said Arte Johnson, the five-foot-four-inch former movie "heavy" who became one of this season's television hits as Your Friendly Neighborhood Nazi, one of his characterizations on "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-in."

Half the youngsters in America (and quite a few adults) have imitated his catch phrase "Very interesting" which is delivered in a thick German accent.

"The whole thing started 20 years ago when every war movie had a Nazi officer at one time or other who looked down at the plan of battle, adjusted his monocle and said 'Hmmm. Very interesting.' It used to break me up," he told me this week. "But no one else thought it was funny."

NO ONE except producer George Schlatter, that is. He was familiar with Johnson's talents with voices and hired him as a regular on the series. "I ad-libbed 'very interesting' on one show but thought that it shouldn't be repeated. George said I was out of my mind. When I discovered how the kids have taken it up, I realized how wrong I was."

Johnson has appeared in hundreds of films and TV shows but was never known by the public until this year's TV success. His description of himself is accurate:

"I'm just a little guy with glasses and hair who has been in the business for 20 years and says two words once a week that everyone is waiting to hear."

Johnson isn't one who is likely to let a flash success go to his head: "You can't get too cocky as a performer on this series because the actors are unimportant. If any one of us left it would take three shows before people would say 'Hey, where's he gone?'"

VIEWERS who are familiar with the 20-second gag techniques of the series will realize that even the writers are unimportant because almost all the jokes are old. "Laugh-In" is an editors' show. Not even the actors know how they will be used. That's part of the fun for everyone.

"This is one instance where the performers look forward to seeing the show on the air—not for the usual ego reasons—but because we actually do not know what we've done until we see the finished product. For each hour of tape, we do 80 minutes of material. The individual quick-takes you see on the show are taped all at once by each actor. Often they just outline a situation and ask up to ad lib a short comment. Then they scramble them together.

"I'm a bachelor, and I have a German girl friend named Giesella Busch who recently came to Hollywood from Bremen," said Johnson. "She has a lousy accent and can't see what's so funny about mine. With two brothers named Adolph and Wolfgang how could she? I think she's changing."

"THE OTHER night we were at a party and all of us driving either Volkswagens or Mercedes-Benzes. The only exception was a friend of mine with a Cadillac who said 'All those German cars are out there in front right now telling my American car they were only taking orders and didn't know what was happening!'"

EVERY PAYDAY



HAWTHORNE SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

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'Fiorello' To Feature Teenagers

Keeping within the mood of the times, "Fiorello," an election play based on the political career of Fiorello la Guardia, will be presented July 26, 27, and 28 at the Torrance High School auditorium.

Dancers featured in the teenage musical sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department include: Lu Ann Camilli, Rose Fagano, Holly Hamlin, Cathy Hinesley, John Millet, Aquila Aquila Quiaoit, Carlynn Wood, Lisa Freeman, and Pat Fagnano.

Others are: Leslie Ann

Hall, Randi Hassen, Cheryl McKim, Linda Murrey, Anne Etter, and Lorrie Gonzales. Kay Turney is the dance director, assisted by Kathi Starns.

MEMBERS OF THE "Fiorello" chorus include: Bill Barnard, Steve Lemler, Bill Lynxwiler, Eric Hoover, Steve Shaw, Bill Hill, Steve Fisher, Chic Stroh, Doug Hassen, Tom Waddell, Steve Bunch, John Millinder, Jim Sage, Brad Fisher, Patty Quimby, Debi Jacobs, Cathy Davis, Paula Johnson, Linda Pfahler, Sue Groth, and Kenny Saville.

Also singing in the chorus are: Richard Cameron, Mark Newman, Dru McCown, Karen McKim, Karen McBee, Judy Moore, Michelle Newman, Claudia Barrington, Kathy Gardner, Marilyn Shumway, Becky Slighter, Gail Saville, Robbie Hill, Melissa Hennrick, Dolores Petorius, Susan Zippi, Yolanda Hernandez, and Brenda Warren.

CONTENTED COWS

Tranquilizing drugs are being given to cows in Israel to increase milk production.

Garden Checklist

1. In July, watering is of great importance. To be effective, water must penetrate to the depth of the roots of plants.
2. Colorful Transvaal Daisies (Gerberas) come in eye-catching colors—some vivid, others pastel. They are available now in both single and double flower forms in C.A.N. nurseries.
3. Keep after snails, slugs, and cutworms with bait. Control is easy, so no use letting them cause damage.
4. Cut back Marguerites to keep them in good shape and to freshen them for new bloom.
5. Dahlias should be fastened to stakes before the heavy flowers tend to break down the stalks. Feed at regular intervals.

Students See Board In Action

Students from Torrance High School were guests of Supervisor Kenneth Hahn at yesterday's meeting of the Board of Supervisors. "By viewing their government in action, these 35 students were better able to understand what they learn in school," Hahn pointed out. They were accompanied by their teacher, James R. Armstrong.

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CHAISE LOUNGE PAD
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JADE TRANSISTOR RADIO
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4.95 VALUE
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AMLAB ANTI-ITCH CREAM
1-OZ. SIZE
\$1⁴⁹

CUTEX Polish Remover
REGULAR 39¢ BOTTLE SIZE
21¢

AMLAB DX-114-POWDER
MEDICATED-COOLING-SOOTHING
2-OZ. SIZE
\$1¹⁹

STRI-DEX 42 MEDICATED PADS
59¢
98¢ VALUE